



## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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30 JUL 1979

Mr. Joseph Pulitzer, Jr.  
Editor and Publisher  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
900 North 12th Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

Dear Mr. Pulitzer:

I would like to draw your attention once again to the way in which you are misleading your readers, this time in your 17 July 1979 editorial entitled, "Secrecy in the Courts." In it you refer to "cases in which the courts have allowed the Central Intelligence Agency to censor books and other writing dealing with the agency's misdeeds."

The Central Intelligence Agency does not "censor" to cover up its "misdeeds." I refer you to my lengthy letter of 2 May 1979 (copy attached) which makes it very clear that the Agency's prior review of its employees' manuscripts is accomplished solely to prevent the inadvertent disclosure of duly classified information, and only occasionally results in any editing at all. To suggest otherwise is to indulge in a blatant distortion of the truth.

No court has ever permitted CIA to censor its "misdeeds" from an employee's manuscript. "Misdeed" is a manipulative word of your own contrivance which you have used in this context to convey an impression that strays from the facts.

The Central Intelligence Agency is accountable today in ways that were unheard of as recently as five years ago. Would you consider dealing with the CIA of today, rather than yesterday's model? We are here to help. Please call on us.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box used to redact the signature of the Director of Public Affairs.

Herbert E. Helms  
Director of Public Affairs

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